LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Department of State

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

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ORIGIN NEA-11

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 L-03 DODE-00 TRSE-00 EB-08 OMB-01
JUSE-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 H-01 /061 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/IAI:ECUBBISON:MGK
APPROVED BY NEA/IAI:DAKORN
L/NEA:DSMALL
DOD:FJOEST

---------- 042543 092302Z /75

P 091701Z JAN 80
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY
INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 006257

E.O. 12065: N/A

TAGS: MILI, IS, US

SUBJECT: USS LIBERTY CLAIM

REF: 78 TEL AVIV 6899

1. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ENTIRE TEXT

2. DEPARTMENT HAS INFORMED ISRAELI EMBASSY THAT WE EXPECT TO BE IN POSITION WITHIN NEXT FEW WEEKS TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAELIS ON USG CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION FOR DAMAGE CAUSED TO U.S.S. LIBERTY BY ISRAELI ATTACK IN JUNE, 1967. KORN CONVEYED THIS WORD TO ISRAELI ACTING DCM BENTSUR ON JANUARY 8, NOTING THAT BOTH WE AND ISRAELIS HAD BEEN DELAYED BECAUSE OF PEACE TREATY AND RELATED NEGOTIATIONS FROM TAKING THIS MATTER UP, BUT BELIEVE TALKS CAN BEGIN SHORTLY NOW. KORN SAID THAT DEPARTMENT WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH ISRAELI EMBASSY LATER THIS MONTH TO PROPOSE A FORMAL DATE TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS. HE ADDED, HOEVER, THAT BENTSUR SHOULD CONSIDER THIS INFORMAL WORD AS NOTIFICATION THAT USG WISHES TO BEGIN TALKS SHORTLY.

3. BENTSUR AGREED THAT US AND ISRAEL SHOULD MOVE EXPEDITIOUSLY TO CLOSE THE BOOK ON THE LIBERTY INCIDENT. HE ASKED THAT THE DEPARTMENT GIVE THE EMBASSY AS MUCH ADVANCE NOTICE AS POSSIBLE OF THE PROPOSED START OF NEGOTIATIONS,

SINCE THE EMBASSY MAY WANT TO ARRANGE FOR A LEGAL ADVISOR FROM JERUSALEM TO ATTEND THE NEGOTIATIONS.

4. FYI: THE DEPARTMENT IS CONSULTING WITH THE NAVY DEPARTMENT TO WORK OUT THE USG NEGOTIATING POSITION, AND E ECTS TO BE READY TO PROCEED BY THE END OF JANUARY OR EARLY FEBRUARY. END FYI.

5. SUGGEST EMBASSY ADVISE MFA OF DEPARTMENT'S INTENTION SHORTLY TO PROPOSE SETTING FORMAL DATE FOR START OF NEGOTIATIONS, AS PER KORN - BENTSUR CONVERSATION REPORTED PARAS 1 AND 2 ABOVE.

VANCE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY ACWood DATE 04/26/82
RDS☐ or XDS☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☒ RELEASABLE☒
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE